

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Employment Development Department Honors California Veterans and Encourages People to 'Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet'

SACRAMENTO - In celebrating Veterans Day, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department (EDD) Director Patrick Henning called on all California employers to remember the sacrifices made by the state's men and women in uniform and to encourage them to "Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet."

"Today is a day to honor those men and women who have made significant sacrifices to preserve this country's freedom," said Henning. "We want to honor veterans by providing the services needed for them to attain the greatest employment and training opportunities."

California is home to over 2.3 million veterans, more than any other state. According to 2004 data from the United States Department of Veterans Administration (USDVA) approximately 27,000 veterans come to California each year. Of those, 12,000 enter California's civilian workforce.

Since October 2005, the EDD directed nearly \$20 million of its budget towards employment and training opportunities and services to assist veterans in seeking and finding employment. Nearly 35,000 veterans were placed into employment, and more than 110,000 veterans received job placement assistance.

"Most veterans are highly skilled, dependable men and women with excellent leadership abilities, and who have trained in the best technical schools; thereby, making veterans good candidates for high demand jobs," said Henning. "The EDD wants to uphold the promise that veterans in California receive the priority in employment services they are entitled to."

In honor of Veterans Day, the EDD has a special feature on its Web site at www.edd.ca.gov which highlights information and services available to veterans and their families. Also available are links to other information and national resources, including a history of the Veterans Day commemoration.

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The EDD offers a variety of programs which provide special assistance to veterans. CalJOBSSM is the Department's Internet-based job and résumé listing labor exchange system. Here, not only can veterans view a wide variety of job listings anywhere in the State and, if qualified, refer themselves to employers for consideration, but they also receive a 24-hour priority on job listings in the system.

In addition to CalJOBSSM, the EDD provides key services and programs exclusively to veterans. Located in field offices across the state, the Department has staff dedicated to conducting outreach to employers, assisting veterans with their job search, and providing specialized guidance to veterans with disabilities seeking employment. Other special services to veterans include:

Real Life Lines (RLL): A program to assist wounded and injured veterans and their families obtain employment as they transition from military to civilian life.

Providing Re-Employment Opportunities for Veterans (ProVet): An intensive service program to assist job placement for veterans with a medical or health related background.

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP): A three-day workshop offered to both veterans (and their spouses) transitioning from military to civilian life that provides an overview of how to conduct a job search; make the right career decision; résumé preparation, and interviewing techniques. The Disability TAP program offers the same services, but focuses on facilitating disabled veterans enrollment in a vocational rehabilitation program.

Troops to Teachers: This program provides funding to support veterans and their spouses interested in a teacher credentialing program.

Two federal programs, the **Federal Contractors Job Listing (FCJL)** and **The Return to Former Employer**, make it easier for states to assist veterans in securing employment. The FCJL program requires employers with federal contracts of \$100,000 or more to list job openings with EDD's Job Service. This program provides a large source of jobs for which veterans are given priority. The Return to Former Employer – Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994, requires that veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserve called to active duty or training have the right to return to their civilian jobs - in both the private and public sectors - with all the benefits they would have accrued if not for their military service.

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